

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Krasnodar Krai)	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Border Zone Restrictions in the Gelendzhik Area	DATE DISTR.	15 May 1953
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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1. The Gelendzhik (T 44-34, E 38-05) area, as well as the entire Black Sea coast, was considered a border zone (pogranichnaya zona), and all regulations and policies applying to other border zones were applicable to it.
2. I never heard of the term "Forbidden Zone" (Zapretnaya Zona 1 or Zapretnaya Zona 2) or of any stamp being put on passports to read "Inhabitant of Border Zone" (Zhitel Pogranichnoy Polosy). It was common knowledge in Gelendzhik that the Black Sea coastline -- especially that part running from Novorossiysk to Tuapse -- was considered a border zone; the presence of border guard units in our area substantiated this belief. I do not know when it was proclaimed a border zone or how far inland the zone extended.
3. The border zone regulations which applied in the Gelendzhik area were:
 - a. Registration and de-registration procedures for all incoming and outgoing persons were compulsory.
 - (1) All persons coming into Gelendzhik had to report either in person or by means of a completed registry form to the city militia within 48 hours of their arrival. When leaving the Gelendzhik area, all persons had to de-register in the same manner 48 hours prior to departure. In both cases the

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "4")

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individual's passport would be presented to the city militia, by whom an entry would be made on it. I do not know what steps would be taken against any person who failed to register with the militia. I never heard of any such case, and am inclined to believe that almost everyone complied with the regulation.

- (2) I had heard that registration with the militia was obligatory everywhere in the USSR, but that the regulations were strictly complied with only in border zones and probably in Moscow.

b. Registration of cameras was compulsory.

- (1) All owners of cameras, regardless of whether they were permanent residents in the coastal area or only visitors, had to register them with the militia and then carry a registration certificate with the camera at all times. However, this certificate did not entitle the camera owner to photograph freely; in practice, he was limited to taking snapshots of friends, with nothing which might be "classified" in the background. Any person who carried a camera near the seacoast was automatically under suspicion. Such persons were approached immediately by either uniformed militia men or by plain-clothes MVD or city Komendatura agents. Their documents and camera registration certificate would be checked, and they would be advised to leave the coastal area or else proceed without the camera. If a camera was not registered, the owner would be taken to the militia precinct on the spot to comply with the registration order.
- (2) Especially in the summertime, when there were many visitors to Gelendzhik, many seksoys and MN men (abbreviation of the term "Naryushnoye Nablyudeniyeye," meaning to spy on people in public places) would mingle in all public places to find violators of the camera regulation or to note any "suspicious" activity. Suspected persons would be followed constantly, and all their activities watched. The photographing of the coastal area, even of purely scenic views, was forbidden. Anyone demonstrating an artistic interest in the Gelendzhik coastline, I heard, would have his credentials examined and his political reliability checked.

c. Registration of radio receivers was compulsory.

- (1) Registration of radios was done, I believe, solely for the purpose of collecting an additional state tax on radio receivers. Owners had to give the specifications of their sets.
- (2) While I did not own a radio, I heard that citizens of Gelendzhik who did have one were watched more closely than those who did not. The registration of radio receivers may also have had another purpose, namely, to facilitate the impounding of all radio receivers in case of an unfavorable political development or a war. I have heard that when World War II broke out all radio receivers, even in the interior zones of the USSR, were immediately impounded.
- (4) I never heard that in the interior of the USSR owners of radios had to register their sets with the militia.

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- d. Fishing outside of Gelendzhik Bay was forbidden. Special permits were required to make boat trips or to go fishing outside of Gelendzhik Bay. These permits were issued by the Gelendzhik Komendatura, which was staffed by MVD Border Guards personnel. Anyone requesting such a permit had to report in person to the city Komendatura, present his passport and other identification, fill out several long forms, supply several photographs, and wait several weeks while his reliability was thoroughly checked. Normally such requests were frowned upon, and resulted in an intensive investigation of the person's "real purpose" in making the request. I know of very few cases where such permits were granted; even then the trip outside the Bay was closely watched.

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